



News Flash – The new Medicare Learning Network® (MLN) fact sheet “The DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program: Fact Sheet for Referral Agents” is now available in both downloadable and hardcopy formats. The downloadable version is available at http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/DME_Ref_Agt_Factsheet_ICN900927.pdf on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website. To order a hardcopy, free of charge, please visit the MLN homepage at <http://www.cms.gov/mlngeninfo> on the Internet. Click on “MLN Product Ordering Page” in the “Related Links Inside CMS” section.

MLN Matters® Number: MM7259

Related Change Request (CR) #: 7259

Related CR Release Date: December 17, 2010

Effective Date: April 1, 2011

Related CR Transmittal #: R2120CP

Implementation Date: April 4, 2011

Claim Status Category and Claim Status Code Update

Provider Types Affected

All physicians, providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (Fiscal Intermediaries (FI), Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHI), carriers, Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (MAC) and Durable Medical Equipment MACs or DME MACs) for Medicare beneficiaries are affected.

Provider Action Needed

This article, based on Change Request (CR) 7259, explains that the Claim Status Codes and Claim Status Category Codes for use by Medicare contractors with the Health Claim Status Request and Response ASC X12N 276/277 along with the 277 Health Care Claim Acknowledgement were updated during the January 2011 meeting of the national Code Maintenance Committee and code changes approved at that meeting are to be posted at <http://www.wpc-edi.com/content/view/180/223/> on or about March 1, 2011. Included in the code lists are specific details, including the date when a code was added, changed, or deleted. Medicare contractors will implement these changes on April 4, 2011. All providers should ensure that their billing staffs are aware of the updated codes and the timeframe for implementations.

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Background

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act requires all health care benefit payers to use only Claim Status Category Codes and Claim Status Codes approved by the national Code Maintenance Committee in the X12 276/277 Health Care Claim Status Request and Response format adopted as the standard for national use (004010X093A1 and 005010X212). CMS has also adopted as the CMS standard for contractor use the X12 277 Health Care Claim Acknowledgement (005010X214) as the X12 5010 required method to acknowledge the inbound 837 (Institutional or Professional) claim format. These codes explain the status of submitted claims. Proprietary codes may not be used in the X12 276/277 to report claim status.

Additional Information

If you have questions, please contact your Medicare contractor at their toll-free number which may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

The official instruction, (CR7259), issued to your Medicare contractor regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R2120CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

News Flash - It's a Busy Time of Year. Make each office visit an opportunity to talk with your patients about the importance of getting the seasonal flu vaccination and a one-time pneumococcal vaccination. Remember, Medicare pays for these vaccinations for all beneficiaries with no co-pay or deductible. The seasonal flu and invasive pneumococcal disease kill thousands of people in the United States each year, most of them 65 years of age or older. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommends that health care workers and caregivers be vaccinated against the seasonal flu. Protect your patients. Protect your family. Protect yourself. **Get Your Flu Vaccine - Not the Flu.** Remember – Influenza vaccine plus its administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza vaccine is NOT a Part D covered drug. For information about Medicare's coverage of the influenza vaccine and its administration, as well as related educational resources for health care professionals and their staff, please visit http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/Downloads/Flu_Products.pdf and <http://www.cms.gov/AdultImmunizations> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

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